

Charlottetown Amateur Radio Club

President

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Secretary

Vice-President

Treasurer

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Charles Easter VY2CE

Minutes of March 7, 2023 meeting

Bill VY2WM called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members present were:

Bill McMaster VY2WM

Brent Taylor VY2HF

Richard Burke VY2RB

Ron MacKay VE1AIC

William Caw VY2CAW

Bushra Bashir VY2BBK

Tracy Allen VY2TAZ

Rich Hews VY2WTF

Fraser Ashworth VY2FA

Ricardo Angel VY2AN

Darrell MacArthur VY2OM

Charles Easter VY2CE

Joel MacNeill VY2KW

Micah Gallant VY2MIC

Tyler MacNeill VY2TM

Maggie MacEachern VY2MMM

Devin Garlick VY2DFG

Arden Gallant VY2ALG

Julia Ashworth VY2JA

Brian Gorveatt VY2BG

Selina MacArthur VY2OL

Alan Beck XY2XU

Bill Glydon VY2LI sent his apologies.

Bill VY2WM asked if there was any knowledge of persons sick or silent keys.

It was mentioned that Bill VY2BP had been ill, but was now back on the air.

Announcements:

None noted.

Minutes of February 7, 2023 meeting:

Bill VY2WM advised that since the minutes for last month's meeting as well as the ones for January had been emailed to all members there was no need for the secretary to read them.

Moved by Rick VY2WTF, seconded by Tracey VY2TAZ to approve the minutes as circulated.
Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes:

Bill VY2WM thanked Ricardo VY2AN for his presentation on alternate power.

President report:

Bill VY2WM reported that he had received correspondence from a radio amateur in Vancouver regarding a special activation of the remaining Buffalo aircrafts. According to the RCAF there are five planes remaining at the following locations: Summerside PE, Saint-Hubert QC, Trenton ON, Edmonton AB, and Comox BC. The event would take place late July and would involve radio amateurs setting up stations inside of the aircrafts to make contact with other Buffalo aircrafts as well as other stations around the country.

The Summerside radio club plans to be involved, and Bill VY2WM has told his contact in Vancouver that Charlottetown would also be interested in participating.

Bill VY2WM further reported that an event involving the former PEI ferry Q.S.M.V. Abegweit ("Abby") was to take place April 15-17, 2023. The Columbia Yacht Club in Chicago (callsign: K9CYC) that has owned the ferry for 40 years will run the old station for those days on 20m and 10m. We have been invited to take part.

Bill VY2LI had suggested to Bill VY2WM the idea of setting up a station at Borden-Carleton. Tracey VY2TAZ knows the CEO of the municipality and could get us a place to set up. William VY2CAW suggested the lighthouse with its close proximity to the water. Micah VY2MIC wondered how it would work logistically. Would we man the station for 12 hours a day? The idea was put forward that in addition to a club station at Borden-Carleton we could also operate from home stations. Bill VY2WM said that for a group effort we could use the club's callsign. We may even be able to get a special RAC sign. If anyone is interested in setting up the event, then please contact Bill VY2WM, Joel VY2KW, Charles VY2CE or Julia VY2JA.

For more details, please check out the yacht club's QRZ page: <https://www.qrz.com/db/K9CYC>

Treasurer report:

Charles VY2CE reported that up to the end of February 2023 he had received a total income of \$1,656. This consists of \$550 tuition fees for the March Basic Course, \$30 of donations, \$330 of dues, and \$650 for the study guides. There was a mix-up at the bank that involved \$5. Charles also reported that up till now the only expenses had been \$9.90 for bank charges including some for incoming e-transfers. There are still some members who haven't paid this year's membership fees, which are due before June 2023.

Moved by Charles VY2CE, seconded by Rick VY2WTF that the financial report be approved.
Motion carried.

Committee reports:

Training/Education:

Brent VY2HF reported that so far the Spring 2023 course had had two classes, both of which had been a great success. One of the students had to drop out, so that the total enrollment is now 16. The class is made up of a great variety of people: there are two father-son "teams", some retirees, some working, and some from as far away as Cape Traverse, Murray River, and St. Peters.

Bill VY2WM mentioned that there were 4 books left, and that he e-transferred the \$100 he had received from Brent from one of the students to the Club earlier in the day. Brent VY2HF explained that one student had paid in fact \$100, but the records were still showing \$50. This would all be updated. Bill informed the members that the Discord study group had been cleaned and refreshed, the Fall 2022 students removed, and the Spring 2023 students invited.

Regarding the Advanced Study Buddy Group, Brent VY2HF said that no meetings had been arranged yet and that he would be happy to help set up the study group. Bill VY2WM added that all advanced study guides had been received and that Rick VY2WTF had purchased an extra 4 books if anyone else wanted to join in. There is also a Discord group that has been set up for the Advanced Study Group. If anyone else wants to join in, please contact Bill VY2WM for an invite.

Repeater Update:

Ron VE1AIC reported that there wasn't much to report. George VY2GF couldn't get into the fusion repeater. When VE1CRA on 146.67 is transmitting, there is some interference. Ron said that digital could be difficult to diagnose.

Ron then gave us a quick show and tell of his EcoFlow DELTA mini portable power station, his AnyTone AT-779UV mobile radio, and his Tiny SA Ultra spectrum analyzer.

Summer Field Day:

Ricardo VY2AN reported that the Committee consisting of Brent VY2HF, Graeme VY2WT, Tracey VY2TAZ, and himself had met on February 11, 2023. Their proposal for Field Day 2023 is that we participate as a club (Class A - 2A Battery) with at least 2 transmitters (mostly 15m, 10, and 6m), a 6m and a 2m VHF/UHF station that share the primary callsign (VY2CRS), and an HF GOTA ("Get on the Air") station with a different callsign. (For more information on Field Day rules and categories, please check out this site: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>)

As the key objectives of Field Day are emergency preparedness and public relations, the Committee suggested operating QRP on battery power in a public location such as Victoria Park. Due to the use of batteries, setup and take down of the stations would be quick and easy so that operation of the stations would take place only during the daytime, i.e. Saturday between 3pm and 8pm, and Sunday between 10am and 6pm. Club members would take turns operating the radios. Ricardo asked if anyone was familiar with setting up signup sheets on Google Forms or a website like Signup Genius. This would be used to facilitate the scheduling of members operating the radios and logging the contacts. Ricardo then asked if the Committee could use the presentation time slot for the June 2023 meeting to go over the logging software and additional logistical details. Bill VY2WM approved the request to use the June presentation slot. Ricardo explained that much more planning needed to be done prior to June and asked for members to consider volunteering for various activities that each would provide a 100-point bonus. Possible activities include a safety officer, an educational activity presenter, media publicity, youth participation, a visit by an elected government official, and a visit by a representative of an agency such as the EMO or the Red Cross. For more details, please see the back of the meeting notes.

Bill VY2WM asked if the Committee had had any thoughts on 20m. Brent VY2HF said that on 5W it would require a big antenna. Of course this would gain quite a lot of attention from the

public. It was mentioned that current propagation was excellent. Bill VY2WM mentioned that in 2021 the CBC came to Field Day and did an interview. In the same year the Deputy Mayor of the Town of Kensington Rodney Mann, who is a radio operator, also attended the event. Brent VY2HF offered that the club would be very happy to set up a second, more traditional Field Day that would be run using generators and could take place at a more secluded location. Richard VY2RB added that in the past Field Day was a lot less about contesting. William VY2CAW mentioned that the Leader of the Green Party Peter Bevan-Baker was interested in emergency preparedness. William suggested that if we wrote Mr. Bevan-Baker a letter about our Field Day plans, he would likely agree to attend. Brent VY2HF mentioned that the club had a big banner that could be put up for all to see.

Correspondence:

All relevant correspondence was shared with members as it was received.

New/Ongoing Business:

There was no new or ongoing business to report.

Information Exchange:

Bill VY2WM gave a presentation on 3D printers, in particular the Original Prusa i3.

Julia VY2JA adjourned the meeting at 9PM.

Julia Ashworth
Secretary

Bill McMaster
President

CARC's Summer Field Day 2023 Planning Committee February Report

Committee Members: Brent VY2HF, Ricardo VY2AN, Graeme VY2WT, and Tracey VY2TAZ

The Committee met on February 11, 2023, reviewed the [Field Day Rules](#), discussed options, included comments from Discord, and would like to propose the Club participate as follows:

- **Class A (Club).** Either 100W (2x multiplier) or 5W Battery (5x multiplier).
- **At least 2 Transmitters.** Not counting GOTA and VHF/UHF Stations.
- **VHF/UHF Station** (6m & 2m - Same callsign). Not added to Transmitter count.
- **GOTA Station** (HF - Different callsign). Not added to Transmitter count.

Given that the objective of Field Day is to develop skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness and to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of amateur radio, we think it would be very valuable for the club and a great learning experience for the members to setup in a public place, like a park, and operate 5W Battery.

The obvious choice might be Victoria Park, but we'll continue to review options and discuss.

Operating QRP on battery power would allow us to setup and take down quickly and to operate only during the day on Saturday (i.e. 3-8pm) and Sunday (i.e. 10am-6pm).

The category would be 2A-Battery, which would give us a multiplier of 5x. Last year, there were only 13 entries in that category. It will be great to see our club's callsign VY2CRS printed on the ARRL QST magazine!

The 2 transmitters would be setup to work mostly 15m, 10m, and 6m as follows:

- **One HF/6m Radio for Digital Modes (FT8)** – One Operator at a time
- **One HF/6m Radio for Voice and CW plus Laptop** – One Operator plus One Logger

With the support of Club members, we would take turns operating the radios and logging the contacts. And to simplify the scheduling, we would use a signup website.

Is anyone familiar with how to create a signup sheet on Google Forms or a particular website like Signup Genius? Open to suggestions.

With this in mind, and if this proposal is approved, we would like to reserve the presentation time slot for our June meeting to go over the logging software and additional logistical details.

CARC's Summer Field Day 2023 Planning Committee February Report

Continued

Much more still needs to be planned, but for now, we can start thinking of volunteers for various activities, as each provides a 100-point bonus, for example:

- **Safety Officer** (can be a club member's friend, partner, or relative, anyone interested?)
- **Educational Activity Presenter** (could be publicized and offered along a BBQ?)
- **Media Publicity** (does anyone have any contacts?)
- **Youth Participation** (Arden and other member's kids could attend & invite some friends)
- **Visit by an elected governmental official**
 - MLA Jamie Fox as former military and first responder could be invited.
 - Deputy Mayor of the Town of Kensington is Rodney a radio operator.
 - Town of Stratford has a number of elected officials in policing.
- **Visit by a representative of an agency**
 - Someone from EMO or Red Cross could be invited.



FIELD DAY

Sat, June 24, 3pm – Sun, June 25, 6pm AT